testimony seems to have damaged Alice's case. Her soft-spokenness is taken as a confirmation of the "mental enfeeblement" Clark had attributed to her. The writer reports that after she stated that she had danced later that day with McIlroy, and on subsequent occasions, Judge Cameron informed Alice's lawyer that if he had no stronger evidence he would direct an acquittal. He then did so, on the grounds that Alice had made no complaint or outcry, that the act appeared to be voluntary, and that the "immediate complaint is necessary to establish a charge of rape." The newspaper account concludes with a rather glowing depiction of the McIlroys:

> [McIlroy], who was composed during the terrible ordeal to which he was subjected, at last broke down when as he left the dock his sister and mother reached out over the railing, warmly grasped his hand and kissed him; then his father, an old white-haired man, with brimming eyes and a face whose every line was one of joy and gladness, grasped him and also kissed him.

On January 10, 1886, Clark merely records his having attended Assize Court that day with the terse observation that the case "did not come off." The next day he reports that he interviewed with Mr. Jissing, Queen's Counsel, whose opinion, that "there is no law to meet the case and ... the scoundrel must be discharged" (457). The Charities Act would not "meet the case" as it addresses only "Idiots & Inebriates" (457). On January 15 Clark reports the discharge of McIlroy from court, with Judge Cameron's comment that it did not mean that McIlroy was innocent but that he had not committed rape, as "the girl gave her consent although a lunatic" (457). Clark's emphasis seems to imply that both things could not be true; by virtue of being a "lunatic" Alice would have had no consent to give. Clark concludes, with a heavy stroke of the pen, that "law is an enigma."

Clark's seeming frenzy to apprehend a culprit, and his near certainty that the culprit would be a staff member appear to be related. The frenzy could be attributed to guilt, and a generalized guilt over conditions at the Asylum is indicated by Clark's assumption. It is as if by pursuing McIlroy, Clark performed a kind of expiation for other things he knew about and recorded in the same Diary, but which he also knew would never be as public as this case.